

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9576

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PFOR AS NX ID XP

SUBJ: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: A. CANBERRA 6163(NOTAL)

B. STATE 222989 (NOTAL)

C. CANBERRA 6081 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING NOVEMBER 13 GOI NEWS AGENCY ANTARA REPORT FROM PORT MORESBY, MALIK HAS AGAIN SUGGESTED "REGIONAL SUB-GROUPING" OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDONESIA AND PAUPA NEW GUINEA(PNG) SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH HE MENTIONED DURING PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN AUSTRALIA (REF A). MALIK SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH PM KIRK. ANTARA REPORT DID NOT MENTION WHETHER MALIK SUGGESTED THAT OTHER POWERS MIGHT JOIN. HIS STATEMENTS WERE MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON ADMINISTRATION OF BORDER BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRIAN JAYA (INDONESIAN HALF OF NEW GUINEA) AND NEIGHBORING

PNG.

2. COMMENT: WE SEE SEVERAL POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR MALIK'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN A SUB-REGIONAL SOUTHWEST PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH WOULD NOT, AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET, INCLUDE ANY OF THE MAJOR POWERS-- PRC, USSR, JAPAN OR US (REF A)

3. GOI (PARTICULARLY FONOFF) SOURCES HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US THAT, FROM INDONESIAN STANDPOINT, ANY REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH INCLUDES EITHER CHINA OR THE SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE OTHER TO AVOID BEING LABELLED "ANTI-PRC" OR "ANTI-USSR". ON THE OTHER HAND AN ORGANIZATION HAVING BOTH WOULD BE PARALYZED BY THEIR CONFRONTATIONS, AND INDONESIA THUS OPPOSES INCLUSION OF EITHER AT THIS TIME. GOI BELIEVES JAPAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING A NEW ORGANIZATION THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE PRC, AND FEARS THAT IF, UNEXPECTEDLY, JAPAN WERE TO AGREE, AN ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF ONE "HAVE" AND MANY "HAVE NOTS"(EG INDONESIA) WOULD MERELY BECOME A FORUM FOR COMPLAINTS.

4. THUS BY SUGGESTING A SUB-REGIONAL GROUP WHICH IS, FROM GOI POINT OF VIEW, FREE FROM THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, AND WHICH INDONESIA, AS THE LARGEST NATION, MIGHT HOPE TO DOMINATE, MALIK MAY BE MAKING A PRE-EMPTIVE BID TO FORESTALL MOVES ON THE PART OF AUSTRALIANS AND OTHERS TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION NOT TO INDONESIA'S LIKING.

5. REGARDING POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC GROUPING (WHICH ARE QUESTIONED IN PARA OF REF B) IT IS CLEAR ENOUGH WHAT SUCH BENEFITS WOULD BE FROM GOI'S POINT OF VIEW. INDONESIANS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT RAMIFICATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR NEIGHBORING PNG AND IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PNG AT ALL LEVELS. (ACCORDING PRT MORESBY REPORT, MALIK AND SOMARE AGREED THAT THE BORDER AGREEMENT WHICH THEY SIGNED WOULD PROVE TO BE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PNG). SINCE BOTH PNG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IRIAN JAYA FACE HIGHLY COMPLEX INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD WELL RESULT IN FOREIGN POLICY COMPLICATIONS OVER THE KPBPNAUL, WE WOULD THINK THAT INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN SOME KIND OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC GROUPING IS BOTH LOGICAL AND DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AND THAT OF OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE REGION AS WELL. WHETHER MALIK IS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS PROPOSAL (AND HOW IT WILL BE RECEIVED BY SENIOR MILITARY FIGURES IN GOI)

REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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